

# The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. XVI. No. 4

Winnipeg, Canada

Summer 1958

## EDITORIAL:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Whither Our Ancestral Heritage? A. Vopnfjord | 10 |
| In the Editor's Confidence                   | 12 |
| The Cover Verse                              | 12 |

## ARTICLES

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <u>The Content of Canadianism, W. J. Lindal</u> | <u>15</u> |
| The Celebrated Island of Iona, H. F. Danielson  | 25        |

## SPECIAL FEATURES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Miss Guðrún A. Símonar                                       | 13 |
| A Colony of Dogs, Björn Björnson                             | 20 |
| Lady Margaret Elton, Paul Bardal                             | 23 |
| Letter from Our Correspondent in California, Louise Gudmunds | 28 |
| Prof. Einar Ól. Sveinsson                                    | 29 |
| Ena Skafel's Paintings                                       | 31 |

## GRADUATES, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARD WINNERS

33-39

## NEWS SUMMARY

40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46

## IN THE NEWS

22, 30, 32, 45

### THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Man.

#### MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Judge W. J. Lindal, Chairman of the Board and Magazine Committee, 788 Wolseley Ave.; Miss Mattie Halldorson, Secretary, 213 Ruby St.; Dr. I. Gilbert Arnason, 416 Waverley St.; Prof. Haraldur Bessason, Ste 11, B Garry Manor Apts; Mrs. Arnheiður Eyolfson, 1053 Dominion St.; Gustaf Kristjanson, 73 Crowson Bay, Ft. Garry; Wilhelm Kristjanson, 499 Campden Pl.; T. O. S. Thorsteinson, 400 Parkview St., St. James; Axel Vopnfjord, 1206 Dominion St.

**BUSINESS & CIRCULATION MANAGER:** Hjalmur F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St.

**ADVERTISING SOLICITOR:** C. Einarson, 617 Ingersoll St.

Editorial and news correspondence should be addressed to the Chairman of the Board or to the Editor concerned; subscription and business correspondence to the Business and Circulation Manager.

Subscription rates—\$1.50 per year; in Iceland 40 kr. Single copies—40 cents.

**Representative in Iceland—** Frú Ólöf Sigurðard., 26C Vesturgötu, Reykjavík, Sími 11812  
**Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.**

## Editorial

## Whither Our Ancestral Heritage?

Four score years and three have passed since Icelandic immigrants began to come to the new world in relatively large numbers. Refugees from an economic environment, which at that time was unfavorable, they came to this country with two clearly defined objectives. The first and foremost was the attainment of economic security for themselves and their families in a land abounding in undeveloped wealth.

Opportunities for the attainment of this objective were not, however, as abundant as silver-tongued immigration agents had led them to believe. Lack of information caused them at first to select sub-marginal locations, where their progress was circumscribed. Placed in a new and strange environment, handicapped by the barrier of language, ignorant of the customs of the dominant race, they found that life in all too many cases had become a grim struggle for survival, an existence of unrelenting toil to secure the barest necessities of life.

Their early contact with the vastly larger number of people in this continent who spoke English left much to be desired. Their foreign language, their outlandish, homespun clothes, and the customs of their remote Northern Isle, marked them as legitimate objects of derision on the part of the 'hérrent fólk' (the people around them), some of whom, most notably those of British descent, were inclined to be insular in outlook, and scornful of customs other than their own. Truly, as Guttormur J. Guttormsson said in his SANDY BAR (as translated by Dr. B. H. Olson):

"Adventurers of yesteryear  
Forsook their homeland, settled here.  
And gained no laurels, without fear  
Gave their all of brain and brawn.  
To strive, tho' failure was their lot,  
For their ideal they vainly fought,  
With single purpose blazed a way  
Starting out from Sandy Bar.  
Way to victory, steadfast, certain  
Reaching out from Sandy Bar."

But deeply and fiercely within their hearts burned the fires of another objective. On the soil of VINLAND THE GOOD, the land of their own LEIFUR HEPPNI, they would establish a new Iceland, where their beautiful language would be preserved, the ástkæra, ilhýra málið, allri rödd fegri (beloved, sweet-sounding language, and every tongue fairer), a language so rich in poetic fancy and smooth in musical flow, a language which is such a powerful yet precise and delicate instrument for expressing the innermost feelings of man. Here the classic sagas would be read. Here the deeds of Gunnar and Grettir and Njáll and Skarphéðinn would continue to thrill. Here Iceland's Heroic Age would continue to be a source of inspiration to countless generations of new Icelanders. Here would they maintain Icelandic traditions and the Icelandic way of life. Here would they establish right little, tight little Icelandic islands against which the erosive waves of Anglo-Saxondom would for time everlasting beat in vain.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new, lest one good custom should corrupt the world." The years have passed. The pioneers have gone

from amongst us; oblivion has overtaken their hopes and their fears. Some of their aims were obviously undesirable; others were impossible of fulfillment. Few—if any— Icelandic Islands now exist. They were incompatible with the process of nation-building. There can be no question of our primary loyalty be it to Canada or the United States. From the standpoint of the building of nations here and our own future in those two nations it is not desirable that we consider ourselves as hyphenated Canadians or Americans.

An exodus from the original settlements and a dispersion throughout the length and breadth of the continent took place. This, combined with inter-marriage, destroyed the homogeneity of the Icelandic communities. Icelandic is still spoken in North America, but most of the present generation of people of Icelandic origin do not know the language of their fathers, and lack interest in Icelandic traditions and culture. But there are exceptions. Inter-marriage does not mean the complete disappearance of the language or an appreciation of the Icelandic heritage. This is clearly shown in an article in this issue on JACKIE WILKIE, who is only one-quarter Icelandic.

But the interest and appreciation are being maintained in another and a much wider and more permanent way. The thinking Canadian and American of Icelandic extraction appreciates the value of the Icelandic heritage, not only for its own sake, but also as something which can en-

rich the cultural aspect of Canadian and American citizenship. Such people feel a duty within themselves both towards Canada and the United States, the lands of their birth, and to the heritage of language and literature, and to the way of life of the people of their land of origin. This is expanded in the article in this issue under the title, 'THE CONTENT OF CANADIANISM.'

So the disappointment of the pioneers, as they saw the Icelandic islands of their dreams fade, is giving way in the minds of their children to a compensating hope, to a feeling of compelling responsibility, to a sense of vision. The course of events has thrust upon our two young nations the responsibility of taking a major part in finding a solution for the perplexing problems that confront this unsettled and troubled world. Lacking the experience and background that only time and effort can give, they are barely ready for it. Only by combining wisely the best features of the cultures of the racial groups that comprise their population can they build a sufficiently solid foundation to enable them to discharge their Herculean task.

There can be no doubt that the ideals and traditions that sustained the Icelandic immigrants in their time of trial and tribulation, and led them to victory over unfavorable and undesirable conditions, must have been built on solid foundations. We, their descendants, can still draw the living waters of inspiration from the heritage they cherished. —A. V.



## IN THE EDITOR'S CONFIDENCE

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Mrs. Ingibjörg Jónsson from the Editorial Board. Her work as co-editor, with her husband, Einar P. Jónsson, of Lögberg is becoming increasingly onerous which makes it difficult for her to carry on any additional duties. Mrs. Jónsson is not the type of person who is willing to hold office without doing her share of the work and hence has asked to be released. Though her resignation must be accepted, let it be said on behalf of the whole staff that her services and valuable advice have been greatly appreciated.

★

Dr. I. Gilbert Arnason, Principal of Mulvey School, has been granted leave of absence by the Winnipeg

School Board for two years to enable him to accept an assignment in Europe with the Department of Defence of Canada. Under present plans Canadian teachers man the schools provided in Europe for the education of the children of the Canadian forces stationed there. It is understood that Dr. Arnason will be in charge of a school in France. He is to be congratulated for having been selected and his stay in Europe will be a valuable and, it is hoped, a pleasant experience.

Dr. Arnason remains on the staff of the magazine but it was felt that on account of his absence there should be two additions to the staff of the magazine, one replacing Mrs. Jónsson and the other substituting for Gilbert Arnason.

## The Cover Verse

The cover verse is one that can be appropriately published in a June issue. There is only one verse. The author, Bjarni Thorarensen, is one of the early nineteenth century poets of Iceland, (1786–1841). At a later date one of his poems, probably "Ísland" will be selected and at that time a brief biographical sketch will appear.

The translator is the world renowned Arctic explorer, Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, who does not need an introduction.

The translation and original follow:

### KISS ME

Kiss me, my little maid,  
You are sick;  
Kiss me again my fragile girl,  
Ere you die.  
Even death I gladly sip  
From a rose,  
For the beaker is so pure.

### KYSSTU MIG

Kysstu mig, hin  
mjúka mær,  
Kysstu mig, hin  
mjúka mær,  
því þú deyr.  
Glaður drekk eg dauða  
úr rós  
Á vörum þín,  
því skálin er svo skær.



## Miss Guðrún Á. Símonar



Miss Guðrún Á. Símonar

Word has been received from Iceland that Guðrún Á. Símonar, acknowledged to be the best soprano in Iceland at the present time, is expected to reach New York early in July and that an extended tour is being planned across the United States and Canada.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of The Icelandic National League held on May 24, a committee was set up to co-operate with her sponsors on the American tour. It consists of Judge W. J. Lindal, chairman, Consul Grettir Johannson, Mrs. H. F. Danielson, and Dr. Richard Beck, ex officio as President of the League.

Tentative arrangements have been made with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for Miss Símonar either to appear in Winnipeg on the "Distinguished Artist" programme on July 9, or to give a half hour recording that day to be put on a national hook-up

at a later date. TV appearances will in all probability be arranged, followed by concerts and other public appearances.

The following is an abbreviation of the advance notice.

The Icelandic singer Gudrun Á. Símonar is little known in America as she has never been there. This is the reason for the present introduction, but many critics consider her the best soprano in Iceland at the present time. This is to be expected for she is excellently talented, highly educated and well trained.

This young artist has not only won popularity in her own country, but has already gained a fine reputation in many other European countries.

Miss Símonar first learned singing in her native city of Reykjavik, where she, like many other Icelandic singers, was taught by Maestro Sigurður Birkis.

In the autumn of 1945 she went abroad for the first time. During the following three years she studied music and drama in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and thereafter for two years at the Opera School Ltd. At the same time she had private tuition in singing with Maestro Lorenzo Medea in the Wigmore Hall. During this period she also studied English at the University College of London for two winters. After that she spent some time in advanced study of singing in London which she completed in 1952.

Miss Símonar then went to Italy for further study and training in concert and operatic singing by Carmen Melis in Milan, a singer of world fame, whose pupils include Renata Tebaldi the

famous Italian opera singer. Miss Simonar completed her studies in Italy in 1954.

This briefly shows her course of study and a brief account of her career follows.

Miss Simonar has given numerous concerts in Reykjavík and other parts of Iceland, in London and other places in Britain, in Norway, Denmark and the USSR. She sang in Moscow and Leningrad in Russia, Kiev and Lvov in the Ukraine, Riga in Latvia and Minsk in White-Russia. She has often been soloist with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra and the Icelandic State Broadcasting Orchestra's official concerts in Reykjavík.

She has often sung over the radio at Reykjavík, Oslo, Copenhagen, Milan, Luxembourg, the BBC Third Programme and Home Service and in the USSR where she also appeared on television.

Besides her Icelandic songs she has a good repertoire of Italian, Spanish, French, Russian and English songs which she sings in the respective languages.

Miss Simonar has sung the following opera parts: Tosca, Mimi in "La Bohème", Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana", Amor in "Orfeo ed Euridice", and Serpina in "La Serva Padrona", as well as Rosalinde in "Die Fledermaus".

She has also sung Icelandic Folk-songs on records, and in late 1956 she made some recordings of light music for His Master's Voice and these are on the world market and attained at once top sales in Iceland.

Below are quoted a few samples taken at random from press-art critics

in the main capitals which Miss Simonar has visited.

London: "Miss Simonar has a fine voice and great dramatic expressions." — — "Excellent broadcasting."

Oslo: "She has a well trained and polished voice. Her range is wide and even, from the depth of a mezzo to the top of a soprano." — "She also has an excellent technique of breathing".

Copenhagen: "Good control of the voice, intelligent and precise interpretation." — — "She is one of the singers one will always remember and follow with interest."

Moscow: "She is a highly educated singer . . . her singing is marked by deep understanding and pure and musical interpretation." — — "Clear intonation, no effort and a sensitive feeling for artistic moderation are the characteristics of this gifted singer."

Reykjavík: "Miss Simonar sang the part of Santuzza with great force and good taste and understanding, proving beyond all doubt that she is an excellent opera singer."

"Miss Simonar sang and acted the part of Mimi enchantingly and in her moving interpretation she often reminded one of the Icelandic songster Lóa singing sadly in the moors."

"It may be asserted that an Icelandic singer has never done as well as Miss Simonar in her passionate, temperamental and jealous Tosca" — — — "And the famous prayer in the second act she sang with such beauty and tenderness that this touched me deeply and effected me more than anything else in the performance. It is a great asset for us to have such a grand opera singer."

# The Content of Canadianism

A toast to Hon. Gunnar Solmundur Thorvaldson at a Testimonial Dinner in honour of the newly appointed Senator and Mrs. Thorvaldson at the Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, on April 28, 1958, proposed by Judge W. J. Lindal.

Fellow Canadians;

Why did I say "Fellow Canadians" in my salutation to this gathering? In the course of my remarks I shall be applying those words to our distinguished guest with particular emphasis on the word "Canadian." But why? I am going to try to answer that question, and if the word "Canadian" in its widest, truest sense fits the new Senator that is the best compliment anyone can pay him.

No one has a monopoly on the use of the words "my fellow Canadians",—not even the person who most frequently used them during the recent elections, the Prime Minister of Canada. Across the border we constantly hear the words "My fellow Americans". The all important point is not the use of such greetings but rather what the speaker intends to convey. The content of Canadianism has to be examined.

In recent years there has been a considerable change in many places among the intelligentsia in the United States as to what is or should be the full meaning to be conveyed in the use of the words "My fellow Americans."

For many decades, reaching back at least to the Monroe Doctrine, the melting pot theory prevailed in the United States—the theory that every immigrant should, as speedily as possible, become a hundred per cent American. Through an aggressive public opinion this transformation was forced rather than allowed to develop as a natural process. But now there is a growing feeling in the United States that this

rapid moulding into one pattern may have been a mistake, that conformity, for its own sake, has its faults, and that liberalism (with a small "l") or toleration in both internal and external affairs is, in the world of today, the better policy. In this new thinking, social monism is giving way to social pluralism—a tolerance towards ethnic and religious groups, to minorities, and to less favoured areas in the country. This pluralism, as stated by Robert F. Creegan of the State University of New York in "School and Society" of January 18, 1958, recognizes that "regulated conflict is the key principle of civilization, and has international implications, no less than domestic and regional ones." It may be that the presence of the United Nations in New York, where representatives of all nations, creeds, and tongues are gathered, has given impetus to this change.

The melting pot theory has never been accepted in Canada. This is largely because Canada is a bi-lingual country, and as long as there is not a merger of the two dominant national groups, the French and British, the Canadian pattern of citizenship will be a mosaic, rather than a colorless blend, a social pluralism rather than a social monism.

It is for that reason that liberalism, should be and in fact is of the essence of what is implied in the words "Fellow Canadians." As the word "liberalism" has such a strong political meaning in Canada, and within the last few days the words "liberally-minded"

have been heard in somewhat unexpected quarters, I should like to coin a substitute. Liberalism is "tolerance", but more than tolerance, because it is something positive and active. I suggest the phrase "tolerance plus." This liberalism or tolerance plus applies primarily to what should be the attitude of one Canadian to another, the majority to the minority, the dominant groups to the ethnic groups. But, as I shall attempt to show, the term has a geographic significance as well as one of population.

The best evidence in support of this "tolerance plus" meaning behind the words "My fellow Canadians" is to be found in the utterances of the Prime Minister, who usually opened his addresses with them.

#### **Tolerance Plus as applied to ethnic groups.**

Just before the day of election Mr. Diefenbaker was interviewed by three prominent Canadian writers and commentators: Barbara Moon, James Bannerman, and Hugh MacLennan. The interview is reported in Maclean's of March 29, 1958. He said in part:

"I determined that" (meaning his life's course) "because of my being of mixed racial origin. I am the first prime minister of this country of neither altogether English or French blood."

Mr. Diefenbaker's concept of Canadianism rests largely upon the fact that he is of a mixed racial origin and in his teens and early years of law practice lived among people then referred to as "New Canadians". He cannot help taking a wide view of Canadiansim; it is in his very blood. We perhaps never will have a prime minister altogether of the one ethnic group, and there would be no advantage in it. What is important is that there be

due recognition of the fact that almost a quarter of the population of Canada is of neither French nor British origin. The ethnic groups constitute an integral part of our national make-up—a part which Prof. Paul Yuzyk of the Department of History in our university refers to as the third element and Steve Melnyk, a Winnipeg Tribune feature writer, very appropriately calls "The Third Dimension."

But this "tolerance plus" has a geographic as well as a populational interpretation. Geography, as well as population, must be given thought if the concept behind the words "fellow Canadians" is to be seen in its widest amplitude.

Last spring, just before the elections, it was my good fortune to spend a week in the Atlantic provinces. I spoke to a number of business and professional men, as well as politicians, yes, and statesmen, both Liberal and Conservative. I felt on leaving as if I had something in common with the people of the Maritimes. I belong to a minority group, a part of that third element, and it seemed to me that there is a feeling on the Atlantic coast which is somewhat akin to what is at times felt in the ethnic groups. Not that the people of the Atlantic provinces or the ethnic groups have any particular complaints, but rather that they feel at times that proper recognition has not been given to that area as part of Canada and to the third dimension as a component part of the people of Canada.

In the Maritimes there is a "Conference of the Four Premiers" as well as a voluntary organization of laymen called the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. The complaint that both these groups make is that federal monies spent in the Maritimes have



all too often been regarded as hand-outs. In an address delivered on June 26, last, Mr. R. J. Rankin, President of the A.P.E.C., objected most strenuously to talk of handouts and charity. Mr. John D. Pattison, writing in *Saturday Night*, May 11, 1957, approached the problem in a slightly different way when he said it was one of a proper "redistribution of the benefits of nationhood."

Recent developments are in harmony with this concept of Canadianism.

In passing, may I recall objections to the building of the Hudson's Bay Railway, started in 1911 and completed in 1930. The most strenuous objections came from the central provinces and in the main from Conservatives in Toronto and Montreal. And while on this digression, may I say that I regard it as most fortunate for Canada that a government in Ottawa and a government in Saskatchewan, of different political stripes, reached an agreement on the South Saskatchewan power and irrigation project. That is Canadianism on a high level.

Projects in different areas should be considered from the point of view of whether they will help in the evolution of the Canada we envision, and not on the basis that they are relief for distressed areas or handouts to demanding provinces.

I made this digression into the geographic field merely to indicate the all-embracing connotation of the word "Canadianism" and the diversity of thought that is or should be behind the words "Fellow Canadian." I now return to the relationship between the Canadian and the nation of his forebears.

It must be admitted that this amplified concept of Canadianism is not entirely new. There is a new emphasis,

a new approach.

This reorientation of emphasis, which in regard to population rests on the basic fact that there are three elements in the population of Canada, has its inevitable corollary. The newcomer to Canada and his descendants owe a twofold duty: a duty towards the adopted mother country—in the case of descendants, to the actual mother country—and a duty towards the former mother country, or rather towards the heritage that has been brought to Canada from the country of origin. It must further be noted that the primary purpose in the retention of the best in that heritage is its inherent value in adding variety to the strands that make up the fabric of Canadian citizenship.

Thus, as there are two duties, a balance has to be found between the two. To ascertain just where that balance lies it is well to consider the two extremes.

At one extreme are those who, upon arriving in Canada, are determined to discard their heritage. Not only do they seek to shed the outer vestments of customs and tradition, but the inner content as well, such as language and literature, and what is perhaps most valuable of all, an approach to life which has been built up during the centuries. In their anxiety to become what they think are Canadians they attach themselves to that in Canadian life which appears to be glamorous but lacks substance. Both Canada and the individual who adopts that attitude are the losers.

At the other extreme are those newcomers to Canada, and in some cases their descendants, who, aside from the time spent in making a living, devote all their energy and substance to organizations within their own ethnic group—valuable service but it does not ex-



tend far enough. They claim to be good Canadians, but when their Canadianism is analyzed it is found that it is largely negative—they merely do not break the laws of Canada. This extreme also does an injustice to Canada, and to the man himself who takes that stand.

It is the co-mingling of the best in the heritage with the best that can be drawn from the milieu, the immediate surroundings, which makes its impress upon the national mold, and thus helps determine the quality of citizenship.

We of North America, need our Roosevelts, our Eisenhowers, our Diefenbakers. We need a Wintermeyer, the new leader of the Ontario Liberals, yes, and we need a Thorvaldson, men of the quality of our guest of honor. They all are a hundred per cent Americans and Canadians, but it must not be forgotten that it is the combination of heredity, association with people of other national origins, and clear vision of the national potentiality and the world destiny of these two nations which raises such men to their high level of citizenship and sense of duty.

I have said there is a dual responsibility—a middle course to be taken. Each Canadian citizen—and I speak only of those within the ethnic groups—must decide for himself just where that middle course lies. We all, as Canadians, must be tolerant and not complain if some appear to veer too far in the one direction or the other. What is of importance is that there be a recognition of this dual position.

Using what has been said as the yardstick, instead of indulging in superlatives about the fine qualities of our guest of honour, I am going to put his actions and activities to the test and let you be the judges.

### 1. Duties towards his heritage.

These are the salient features:

(a) A few years ago the Icelanders of Canada and the United States, with support from Iceland, raised a Foundation Fund of \$220,000 to establish a permanent Chair in Icelandic Language and Literature in the University of Manitoba. To become one of the Founders of the Chair a person had to contribute \$1,000 or more. Our guest of honour is one of the Founders of that Chair. He realized that if there was to be any permanency in the contribution of Icelanders and Canadians of Icelandic descent to the development of the cultural side of Canadian citizenship such a Chair had to be established.

(b) For many years Solli Thorvaldson has given of his time and substance in supporting *Heimskringla*, one of the Icelandic weeklies published here in Winnipeg. It is significant that he has strongly advocated the amalgamation of the two papers, *Logberg* and *Heimskringla*—something very difficult, because, during the seventy some odd years these papers have been in existence, a strong sentiment in favour of each one has developed and must not be ignored. But the fact that Solli favors the amalgamation shows that he has neither politics nor religion in mind; what he can see and what he urges is the need of publishing a newspaper in the Icelandic language for the purpose of maintaining the ties between Iceland and Canadians of Icelandic extraction and preventing the complete disappearance of the relatively tiny group of people of Icelandic descent on this continent. These Icelandic weeklies—or the one paper, if there is an amalgamation—must be maintained, he contends, if what is of value in the Icelandic heritage (and others tell

us it is much) is to be transmitted into the Canadian and American scene.

(c) Senator Thorvaldson has made a substantial contribution to the Betel Home for the Aged, and countless other Icelandic organizations and institutions have benefited from his—shall I say, liberal hand.

(d) When the Canada Iceland Foundation was launched last fall Mr. Thorvaldson immediately became a charter member.

## II. Duties performed as a Canadian

(a) A man's first duty, as Cyrus S. Eaton says, is to make a living. I shall not dwell on that, except to mention that Gunnar S. Thorvaldson heads one of the larger law firms in Winnipeg and is on the directorate of many corporations. And I shall barely touch upon the part that he has played in politics. True, that is public service, but not as selfless as some other types of public service; it has its rewards, though at times its disappointments. Solli Thorvaldson served for two terms in the Manitoba Legislature, a total of about nine years, and there he acquired an experience which will stand him in good stead when he takes on the task of battling the Liberal majority in the Senate.

(b) But it is in other fields that Mr. Thorvaldson has rendered the most distinctive service. He has been a member of the Law Society of Manitoba for many years and is now President. He is a past President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce—a position he filled with distinction to himself, his national group, and indeed to Canada. Service in that high office demands sacrifice of both time and money. As President of the Cham-

ber of Commerce Mr. Thorvaldson covered every part of Canada and sailed abroad as well, to attend international Chamber of Commerce conferences.

So, on analysis, it is found that Senator G. S. Thorvaldson has discharged his twofold duties well and with credit. Paraphrasing from Shakespeare, we can say that the elements of heritage; of surroundings, which include wisdom in the selection of a life partner from those surroundings; and his vision of the Canada which he is helping to build—those elements are so well mixed in him that we can stand up and say to all the world: here is a Canadian.

---

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing article is published in response to a request from Mr. E. A. Brotman, Q.C. His letter is published below.

Mr. Axel Vopnfjord,  
1206 Dominion Street,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Sir:

On April 28th a dinner was tendered to Senator G. S. Thorvaldson, Q.C., by the Icelandic groups of this City, at which dinner I happened to be present, and there was an address delivered by Judge Walter J. Lindal, who proposed a toast to Senator Thorvaldson.

Judge Lindal's address was noteworthy from many standpoints, but what struck me especially about it was his definition of "Fellow Canadians". The Judge's speech on this point is particularly interesting to all ethnic groups in Canada, and is a remarkable exposition of the superiority of social Pluralism over social monism.

Judge Lindal's liberal, enlightened and most capably expressed views, I am sure, will be of interest to all your readers. I asked the Judge for a copy of his speech so I could send it to you and it is enclosed herewith.

Yours truly,

E. A. Brotman,

—A.V.

## A COLONY OF ICELAND DOGS

by BJÖRN BJÖRNSON



Mark Watson, owner of Wensum Kennels, Nicasio, California and breeder of Iceland dogs, is shown here with one of his dogs, Auli of Sleðbrjót. This picture was taken at Egilsstaðir in Iceland in 1956. Auli is one of several dogs imported to the United States by Mr. Watson. Each of his dogs has an Icelandic name and is also identified with its birthplace. Others include Vaskur of Þorvaldsstaðir, Konni of Lindarbakki, Brana of Hvanná, and Bósi of Höskuldstaðir. Icelandic names continue in succeeding American-born generations such as Glói of Wensum, Grýla of Wensum and so on.

The newest colony of "western Icelanders" is now thriving on a 120-acre ranch 32 miles north of San Francisco. It is an exclusive, hand-picked colony that, in the finest Icelandic tradition, can trace its ancestry back to the ninth century.

Its members include more than a dozen Iceland dogs and three Iceland horses. They were brought to California by Mark Watson, a native of England who now operates Wensum Kennels at Nicasio, California. Searching the remote valleys and out-of-the-

way places of Iceland, Watson selected the finest specimens of the Iceland dog he could find and brought four pairs to California for his foundation stock.

Mr. Watson made his first visit to Iceland in 1937 when he traveled across the interior on horseback. He observed then and in subsequent trips that there was on the island a distinct breed of dog not found anywhere else. With the practised eye of the dog fancier, he noted that not every dog in Iceland could accurately be termed an Iceland dog. The true species have

certain readily recognizable characteristics which set it apart from other breeds.

With the thoroughness of a trained scholar, Watson sought to determine these characteristics and establish the fact that the Iceland dog was definitely a breed apart. He traced every literary reference to the Iceland dog from the earliest sagas to contemporary writings.

Mr. Watson gathered all these allusions to the Iceland dog into a profusely-illustrated 80-page monograph which he has had published. The book, entitled "The Iceland Dog 874-1956", is a fine piece of scholarship and represents the most comprehensive and definitive work on the Iceland dog.

The little volume cites references to the dog in Latin, English, Danish, French and German, as well as Icelandic. All references have been translated into English. Best known author quoted is William Shakespear who, in Henry V, Act 2, Scene 1, has Pistol exclaim: "Pish for thee, Iceland dog! Thou prick-ear'd cur of Iceland!"

The Iceland dog, also known as the Icelandic sheepdog, is a Spitz type, lightly built and slightly under middle size. Its predominant characteristics are listed in Mr. Watson's book. The dog is from 15 to 18 inches high at the shoulders and weighs about 30 pounds. It comes in a number of shades, white with fawn markings, golden, light fawn with black tips to long hairs, and occasionally all black. It has a very bushy tail of moderate length carried curled over the back. Its ears are large at the base, triangular in shape, pointed and erect.

Mr. Watson's research indicates that there may once have been three different types of dogs in Iceland. A German volume published in 1744 lists the three types as the fjár-hundar

(sheep dogs), dýr hundar (hunting dogs) a larger type similar to the Danish dog and used chiefly for hunting foxes, and the dverg-hundar (dwarf dogs) a small dog with a thick, stumpy tail about two or three inches long.

Only the hardy sheep dog survived the calamities that befell Iceland in the latter part of the eighteenth century when earthquakes and volcanic eruptions shook the country, followed by famine and disease which reduced the population greatly. The pureness of the breed of Iceland dog, however, has been maintained only in some parts of Iceland, says Mr. Watson.

In the introduction to his book he states: "The true Iceland dog is rare and I found only one valley (Breiðdalur), a very remote one in the east of Iceland, where the true type is in great preponderance—I should say about 90 per cent. Occasionally in other parts of the east or north of Iceland one sees a good specimen. There may be other remote valleys, similar to the one mentioned above, which I have not found . . .

"During two summers in Iceland, I made an intensive search and very carefully selected four dogs and four bitches, which I brought to the United States. I have already had three litters (in 1956) which have turned out well and by careful breeding I hope to be able to standardize the breed completely. They are a very attractive breed of the Spitz group; most intelligent and exceptionally friendly. . .

"During the last years of the 19th century some Iceland dogs were taken to Denmark and the breed was recognized by the Danish Kennel Club and shown at dog shows under their auspices between 1900 and 1914. The breed was first recognized by the English Kennel Club in 1905 and specimens of the breed were shown in



England in the "any other variety" class in 1923 and 1925."

The care with which Mr. Watson has selected the foundation stock of his kennel of Iceland dogs is shown by the widely scattered areas they come from. As indicated in his introduction. Mr. Watson found more genuine Iceland dogs in Breiðdalur than anywhere else. Four of his dogs come from there. Of the other four, one comes from each of the following places: Blönduhlíð, Jökuldalur, Jökulsárhlið, and Fossárdalur.

Mark Watson was born in England and educated at Eton. His interest in Iceland dates back to his boyhood. During his first visit there in 1937 he took a great many photographs and had an exhibition in London which was opened by the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark, now the King and Queen of Denmark.

In the following year he made another horseback trip, this time around

the north, northeast, east and south coasts of Iceland. During this trip he took color movies as well as other photographs. About 500 feet of his color movies and ten of his black and white photographs were shown in the Icelandic pavilion of the New York World's Fair in 1939.

During the war Mr. Watson served in the R.A.F. and settled in America soon after being demobilized in 1946. Since the war he has made four trips to Iceland. During one of these trips, in winter, he recalls with particular pleasure, he got in some skiing in perfect weather.

In 1955 Mr. Watson bought his ranch near San Francisco and started to breed Norwich Terriers and Iceland dogs. At that time he had only his first pair of Iceland dogs—Bósi and Brana. From these and other canine "pioneers" Mr. Watson is building a new breed that bids fair to become popular with dog lovers the world over.

G. EJORN BJORNSON is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar B. Bjornson. He began his newspaper career on his father's weekly newspaper at Minneota, Minnesota. He has since been head of the Department of Journalism, University of North Dakota, editorial writer on the Minneapolis Tribune, war correspondent for NBC in Europe when he was stationed in Iceland for some time, Washington correspondent for NBC and later CBS. He is now information manager of a utility firm in Minneapolis. —Ed.

#### FOUR ICELANDERS STUDY AT CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY

News from the University of California reveals that four students from Iceland have been pursuing studies there, some completing higher studies.

Jens Pálsson received his A.B. degree in anthropology from the University this year with honors after completing four years' studies in two and one-half years. He was made a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He is the first student to receive a scholarship from the newly established scholarship fund of the Icelandic Society of Northern California.

Ingvi Olafsson, a lawyer of nine years and in the employ of the Icelandic Government, is this year attending the University of California on a Full-bright scholarship as exchange student, studying economics and international law.

Halldor Thormar, a graduate in physiology, has been at the University on a Smith-Mundt scholarship as exchange student, studying biochemistry of virus.

Solveig Jonasdottir is majoring in laboratory technique at the university.

—Louise Gudmunds.



## Lady Margaret Elton Visits Winnipeg



Lady Margaret Elton

England in connection with her work for the Film Board, and there she met Sir Arthur Hallam Rice Elton, 10th Baronet. They were married in 1948 and have three children: Julia Margaret, Rebecca Adalbjorg and Charles Abraham.

Sir Arthur Elton was born in 1906, and educated at Marlborough and at Jesus College, Cambridge. He is associated with the Shell Company in London and is one of the foremost makers of scientific films in the world. He was founder and president of the Scientific Film Association, and was Governor of the British Film Institute from 1948-49. He is the author of a book titled "British Railways", and a number of books on motor cars and aeroplanes. His special interest is the history of technology and he has a vast collection of books on the history of railways, canals, bridges, gas lighting, the Crystal Palace, and related subjects.

The country estate of Sir Arthur and Lady Elton is Clevedon Court, a beautiful manor house which for ten generations has been in his family. It is one of the very few surviving early 14th century manor houses in England, being built around the year 1320 when Sir John de Clevedon was Lord of the manor, and thus ranks as an almost unique historic monument. But the term "historic monument" sounds too bleak and severe in referring to Clevedon Court, which has not only historic significance, but a great charm, literary and romantic associations and all the atmosphere of a real home that has been in the possession of one family

Last November, when Lady Margaret Elton came from England for a month's visit with relatives and friends in Winnipeg, she was the guest of her cousin, Mrs. John Hillsman and Dr. Hillsman. Mrs. Hillsman is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Brandson, well-known physician and beloved among the Western Icelanders.

Margaret Anna, Lady Elton is the daughter of Dr. Olafur Bjornson and his wife Sigridur (Brandson) Bjornson, both of whom passed away a number of years ago. She was born in Winnipeg in 1915 and graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1935. Following graduation she took a position with the Canadian Film Board, which took her to Eastern Canada, and an interesting career. She participated in the making of the film, *Iceland on the Prairies*, in the late thirties

Later Margaret Bjornson went to

for nearly 250 years.

Clevedon Court is situated in the west of England about twelve miles from Bristol. The gracefully wrought and stately buildings stand at the foot of a heavily wooded hill, amid fine old trees and terraced gardens and look out over the level lands of north Somerset. Additions and alterations have been made at different times, and towards the end of the last century the west end had to be reconstructed after a fire, but that did not affect the mediaeval house, which remains almost in the form in which it was built in Edward II's reign.

The main entrance to the manor is by the massive 14th century porch on the south wall, the main hall being set back and to the side of this entrance. Balancing the entrance porch on the other corner of the great hall is the ancient chapel of very definite date, for it is lighted by a large rectangular window which is unique in being entirely filled with reticulated tracery composed of a network of quarterfoils, an architectural design distinctive of the early 14th century. Flanking the great hall, on the ground floor are innumerable passages leading to other parts of the house, and several large rooms, such as the library, with a large solar room over it, the justice room, the back sitting-room, and in the west newer section a magnificent drawing room. The kitchens which seem to have been built first are at the east end, placed askew to the great manor itself, with a covered court between it and the house. In the west wall of the great hall is a magnificent Elizabethan doorway, which appears to be massive wood-carving, but it is

actually carved of stone, and painted to resemble wood.

The ancient rooms, with their quaint and artistic period designs hold many rare treasures, such as family portraits, famous paintings, and rare pieces of crystal and lustre-ware. In the library with its great fire-place and rows of books, one could relax and meditate on the time when Thackeray (we are told) sat there and wrote part of his *Esmond*.

There is also considerable land belonging to the estate, and which is administered by Sir Arthur. It must be a very dear and pleasant place to come to from the more rigorous routine of their London home. It must be an ideal spot for the children to ramble and to study,—to learn about history and culture,—to learn about their ancestors for hundreds of years who have built and wrought and conquered in the physical and spiritual world. One can picture the children of Sir Arthur and Lady Margaret sitting in the library among all this ancient heraldry and listening to a story their mother is telling them about her ancestors, who lived in little turf thatched cottages in Iceland, but who dreamed dreams, conquered many difficulties and built a goodly store of heritage for unborn generations, in their literary and artistic achievements.

Yes, one can picture this happy family counting their blessings,—the sturdy past to buttress them, the stern present to challenge them and the expanding future to beckon them, and we send our wishes of goodwill across the seas to Lady Elton, our Icelandic cousin, in her castle on the English Downs.

—Paul Bardal



# The Celebrated Island of Iona

by HJALMUR F. DANIELSON

The island of Iona is historically famous in three aspects. During a long period it was a religious and educational centre of western Europe, and through the renowned religious and educational work of Saint Columba it was considered to be a holy island. The Book of Kells, the great masterpiece of Celtic illuminative art, was produced there, and partly in the town of Kells, and the Stone of Scone was located in the ancient little cathedral on the island for three hundred years. The island is located close to Scotland. It is one of the Inner Hebrides and is three miles long and one and a half miles wide. During many centuries the island was a sanctuary which, however, was not fully honored by the Vikings during the Viking epoch, or the Protestant Christians immediately after the Reformation.

Saint Columba was born in Ireland December 7, 521. He was descended from royalty on both sides of the family. After a thorough education he was ordained in 551. He was extremely influential on account of his family connections. About 563, assisted by twelve apostles, he established in Iona island a monastery, a church and a school, which became a religious as well as educational centre for western Europe. Religious leaders, accompanied by twelve apostles, spread Christianity through northern England, Scotland and the various countries of the continent. They also established schools. In Saint Columba's time the world's largest library was located on Iona island and extensive writing was done there. Students from many lands gathered there for their education.

It is considered certain that at least two of the first pioneers in Iceland studied at the Iona school. One of them was Orlygur Hrappsson, a Norwegian. He was a first cousin of queen Auður Djúpúðga (deep thinker), who was married to king Ólafur the White, a Norwegian who, according to Irish and Scottish annals, ruled at Dublin, Ireland, from 852 to 871. He also carved for himself another kingdom in Scotland around 870, which included Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Murray. Orlygur was fostered by a Bishop Patrick who resided in the Hebrides. (In Landnámabók Bishop Patrick is mistaken for Saint Patrick who was born about 380 A.D.)

When Orlygur expressed a desire to settle in Iceland, towards the end of the ninth century, he requested the bishop to look after his affairs. The bishop supplied him with building material for a church, an iron church bell, consecrated soil to place under the cornerposts of the church and a plenarium, a book of full instructions for conducting a church service. The book was written in Latin which proves that he had studied that language. Orlygur sailed for Iceland but encountered continuous adverse winds, and drifted about the ocean for weeks. He vowed to name his place of landing in Iceland after Saint Patrick if he and his shipmates survived. He finally landed in Iceland near a bay which he named "Patreksfjörð". The bay still goes by that name. He established his home at Kjalarnes, and built a church which he dedicated to Saint Columba. That church is considered to be the first church built in Iceland by the newly arrived settlers. Hence the first preach-

er in Iceland after the beginning of settlement in 874 was a first cousin of a queen of Ireland and Scotland.

The Book of Kells, was produced at Iona, (sometimes called Icolmkill), and partly in the town of Kells, in Ireland, about 770 A.D. The following paragraph describes the book thoroughly. It is copied from: "The Glories of Ireland", edited by Joseph Dunn Ph.D., and P. J. Lennox, Litt.D.

"The Book of Kells is the all-surpassing masterpiece of Celtic illuminative art and is acknowledged to be the most beautiful book in the world. This copy of the four Gospels was long deemed to be made by the saintly hands of Columcille, though it probably belongs to the eighth century. Into its pages are woven such a wealth of ornament, such an ecstasy of art, and such a miracle of design that the book is today not only one of Ireland's greatest glories but one of the world's wonders. After twelve centuries the ink is as black and lustrous and the colors are as fresh and soft as though but the work of yesterday. The whole range of colors is there—green, blue, crimson, scarlet, yellow, purple, violet—and the same color is at times varied in tone and depth and shade, thereby achieving a more exquisite combination and effect. In addition to the numerous decorative pages and marvelous initials, there are portraits of the Evangelists and full page miniatures of the Temptation of Christ; of His seizure by the Jews; and of the Madonna and Child—surrounded by Angels and censers. Exceptionally beautiful are these angels and other angelic figures throughout the book, their wings shining with glowing colors amid woven patterns of graceful designs. The portraits and miniatures and the numerous faces centred in initial letters are not to be adjudged by the

standard of anatomical drawing and delineation of the human figure, but rather by their effect as a part of a scheme of ornamentation; for the Celtic illuminator was imaginative rather than realistic, and aimed altogether at achieving beauty by means of color and design. The Book of Kells is the Mecca of the illuminative artist, but it is the despair of the copyist. The patience and skill of the olden scribe have baffled the imitator; for, on an examination with a magnifying glass, it has been found that, in a space of a quarter of an inch, there are no fewer than a hundred and fifty-eight interlacements of a ribbon pattern of white lines edged with black ones on a black ground. Surely this is the manuscript which was shown to Giraldus Cambrensis towards the close of the twelfth century and of whose illustrations he speaks with glowing enthusiasm: "they were", he says, "supposed to have been produced by the direction of an angel at the prayer of St. Brigid." "

In the summer of 1954 Ireland presented Iceland with a photostatic copy of the Book of Kells. When Professor Delargy handed the book to the President of Iceland on June 27, he said that it had been called the most beautiful book in the world, and that the Irish people could not show their warm feeling of friendship for the people of Iceland in a more suitable manner than to present them with this volume of art. He said further that the people of Ireland and the people of Iceland had many things in common. Late in the eighth century Ireland's holy men produced literature in Iona island, in Ireland and in Iceland, and they enjoyed a sanctuary in Iceland for over eighty years prior to the settlement of Iceland in 874 by Norwegians and Irish people. He also said that the people in Ireland and Iceland had



experienced extreme hardship and had been oppressed and bowed by superior powers, but broken never.

According to tradition the Stone of Scone was originally "Jakob's Pillow." We read in the Book of Genesis about Jakob's long march to Mesopotamia where he met the shepherd girl at the well, and how he fell in love with her as he helped her to water her flock of sheep, and how he willingly worked and waited for her for fourteen years. At the end of a long day's march when Jacob was between Beersheba and Haran, he laid himself to rest under a starry sky, using a slab of stone for a pillow. On that stone he dreamed a heavenly dream, and on waking he thought the place must be a gateway to heaven. To him it was a church under the stars. He raised the stone on edge, anointed it with oil, and he named the place Bethel (House of God).

When the Stone of Scone is first mentioned in history, it is located in Scotland. In order to comply with the request of Saint Columba, Conran III the King of Argyle had the Stone placed in the ancient cathedral on Iona island. During 300 years all Scottish Kings were crowned there, the coronation ceremony being performed with the throne standing on the Stone of Scone.

It was during the Viking epoch that King Kenneth McAlphin had the Stone of Scone, and other treasured relics, transferred to the Abbey of Scone, in the town of Scone, the capital of his kingdom, which became the centre of religious activity. The Stone rested there for four hundred years, and during those centuries was used in connection with coronation ceremonies of Scottish kings. In 1296 King Edward I, the King of England, made war in Scotland. He seized the Stone

of Scone, as well as a great deal of treasure. He then placed the Stone under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey.

Throughout the centuries the Scottish people would not admit that the Stone of Scone belonged legally to England. In fact they claimed that Scotland had inherited the throne of England in 1603 when the Stuart James VI of Scotland became King of England as James I. On Christmas day, 1706, a group of intensely patriotic Scotsmen seized the Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey and carried it off to Scotland. Scotland Yard had a "Merry-go-round" for a few months until the Stone was voluntarily returned to Westminster Abbey, where it is today.

The island of Iona is also famous as a resting place of kings. During the centuries no less than forty-eight kings of Scotland, among them being King Duncan, immortalized in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. Four kings of Ireland and eight kings of Norway and Denmark were carried to the island, there to find a final resting place. Many kingly warriors, who during their turbulent lives had relentlessly warred, one against the other, were united in death on the island.

About the year 1900 the Duke of Argyll conveyed title to the entire island of Iona to the Church of Scotland under certain conditions of preservation and restoration, and the ancient little cathedral was restored as near to the old form as possible. It was in the ancient cathedral that Saint Columba passed away peacefully June 8, 697 A.D. When he felt that death was approaching, he asked that he be carried into the cathedral, and with his head resting on 'Jacob's Pillow' he took his last breath.



# Letter From Our Correspondent in California

(Slightly abbreviated)

Dr. Richard Beck arrived in Berkeley, California, on Thursday May 1, and the same evening lectured at the University of California, Berkeley, on **"The Land where Song and Saga still Flourish"**. The lecture was open to the public and several Icelanders attended. The rest of the audience was presumably made up of other Scandinavians as this lecture was the opening session preceding a two-day conference of "The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study" of which Dr. Beck is president.

The subject matter was, as expected, excellently presented.

The Sagas, Dr. Beck told his audience, in effect, were read to every member of the household and therefore were the property of the people. The shepherd could recite and discuss them as well as the head of the household.

After the lecture the Icelanders wended their way to the Gudmunds home for a cup of coffee and a chat with Dr. Beck.

During his visit here Dr. Beck stayed at Hotel Claremont (The Fort Garry of this locality) which is a huge rambling chalet-styled piece of architecture, nestled in the hills of Berkeley, affording a magnificent panoramic view, looking west on the Bay area. It is a glorious view in clear weather and especially in the evening when the lights are lit and glitter and reflect like millions of stars.

On Saturday afternoon, May 3, Dr. and Mrs. K. S. Eymundson called for Dr. Beck at the hotel and drove him across to San Francisco to show him the sights and points of interest, after

which they took him to their home and served him skyr, rullapilsa, vinarterta, brown bread and coffee. In the evening the Icelandic Society of Northern California honoured Dr. Beck with a dinner at Grant's Banquet Hall on Sloat Blvd., San Francisco.

When Dr. Beck and Dr. and Mrs. Eymundson arrived at Grant's, shortly before 8 p.m., approximately one hundred Icelanders had gathered there. Dr. Eymundson, the President, called the meeting to order to sing both the American and Icelandic National Anthems. As the first course was being served Dr. Eymundson stood up, briefly explained the occasion for the gathering and introduced the guest of honour. He then introduced the Board and others at the head table, including Walter Johnson, editor of Scandinavian Studies, and Mrs. A. F. Oddstad, widow of our first President. And from the audience he introduced a man from Iceland, who had arrived that morning, a guest of the State Department, Stefan Gunnlaugsson, sociologist, Mayor of Hafnafjörðum, and Mr. Rowley, President of the newly organized Icelandic-American Society of Palo Alto.

Following the dinner Margaretha Thorlakson sang a group of three songs—the first one "Visnar Vonir", text by Dr. Beck and music by Louise Gudmunds. The other two songs were from American operettas. Margaretha Thoriakson has a very beautiful rich soprano voice, and knows how to use it. She is a graduate in music from the University of California, Berkeley, and is Supervisor of Music over several schools in San Francisco. Mrs. Louise

Gudmunds was accompanist for the evening.

After Miss Thorlakson's solos Dr. Eymundson called on Rev. S. O. Thorlakson, Icelandic Consul, to say a few words of greeting to the guest of honour, which he did in his friendly, gracious manner. The chairman then introduced the speaker. He traced Dr. Beck's career and told of his many scholastic and literary achievements, and enumerated the honours and decorations conferred upon him.

For many weeks the people had looked with much anticipation to hearing this authority on Iceland's history, literature and culture. This time his topic was "From Viking Ship to Kon-tiki". He spoke with verve and vim and held his audience spellbound.

After visualizing with the mind's eye the excursioning of the sail boats 72 ft. long by 17 ft. wide, with 15 sets

of oars and 30 men rowing on the open seas and contemplating how rugged and fearless those Vikings must have been, the speaker made a quick transition to Icelandic culture. Dr. Beck said in effect: "It takes a long time—many centuries—to build a culture so why fritter it away. We have thought of this American Nation as a melting pot—a sort of a large cauldron into which the various nations have been dumped and stirred and mixed into one nation, and each nation is to forfeit and discard its identity in this pottage. But now we are thinking of it as a mosaic—each piece having its place and contributing to the complete pattern."

It was a thrilling and inspiring event for the Icelandic community of Northern California to have the opportunity of hearing this gifted man.

—Louise Gudmunds

## PROF. EINAR ÓL. SVEINSSON



Prof. Einar Ólafur Sveinsson, Ph.D.

Professor Einar Ólafur Sveinsson, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Philosophy in the University of Iceland and Professor in Icelandic studies, was a visitor to Manitoba in March of this

year. He is one of numerous men of letters of Iceland who have been invited by either the government or leading cultural organizations of the United States to visit that country and deliver a series of lectures at university and other centres of learning.

Professor Sveinsson is recognized as one of the leading authorities in Europe, and one can safely say in the world, on Norse language and literature. He has made a special study of the Icelandic Sagas, and his research on *Njálssaga*, for which he obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree, is recognized as work of outstanding merit. He has already published, under the auspices of "Hið Íslenska Fornritafélag", The Society of Studies in Icelandic Classics, special editions of six

of the sagas, and the introductions in themselves are works of a high literary and research value.

Dr. Sveinsson is versatile in his literary activities. He is not only a student but a writer and public speaker and is recognized as one of the most popular radio speakers in Iceland. He was for some years editor of "Skirnir", an annual published in Reykjavik and has contributed a number of articles to that literary publication.

It is fortunate for us in Canada that some of these distinguished visitors to the United States manage to make a detour to Canada. They often do this at their own expense and with sacrifice of the daily stipend while on their visit to the United States.

Dr. Sveinsson was one of those who managed to pay a brief visit to Manitoba. On Thursday, March 20, he delivered a lecture in the Federated Church in Winnipeg, which he entitled "Gildi íslenzkra fornsagna". The following day he delivered the same lecture in English at the University of Manitoba under the title, "The Value of the Icelandic Sagas." The lecture will be published in *Skirnir* next fall and as soon as a copy is available a commentary will appear in this magazine and appropriate passages quoted.

Professor Sveinsson was accompanied by his wife, frú Kristjana Þorsteinsdóttir. At noon of the day they arrived in Winnipeg they were the guests of the Executive Committee of the Icelandic National League at a luncheon in the Fort Garry Hotel. The President of the League, Dr. Richard Beck, presided and Consul Grettir Johannsson extended greetings to the distinguished guests. Brief addresses were delivered by Rev. Philip M. Petursson and Professor Haraldur Bessason, both former students of Professor Sveinsson. In his reply the professor expressed his pleasure in being here and emphasized how essential it is, that there be frequent visits both ways, not only of leaders in literature and political circles but also representatives of the average citizen, especially the young people.

On Friday evening Professor and Mrs. Haraldur Bessason were hosts to Dr. and Mrs. Sveinsson at an informal gathering in their home and the following morning Professor Bessason drove them to Gimli where they visited the Betel Home for the Aged. On Sunday morning the distinguished guests left for the United States, where Professor Sveinsson continued his itinerary of lectures at American universities. —W. J. L.

## RECEIVES PROMOTION

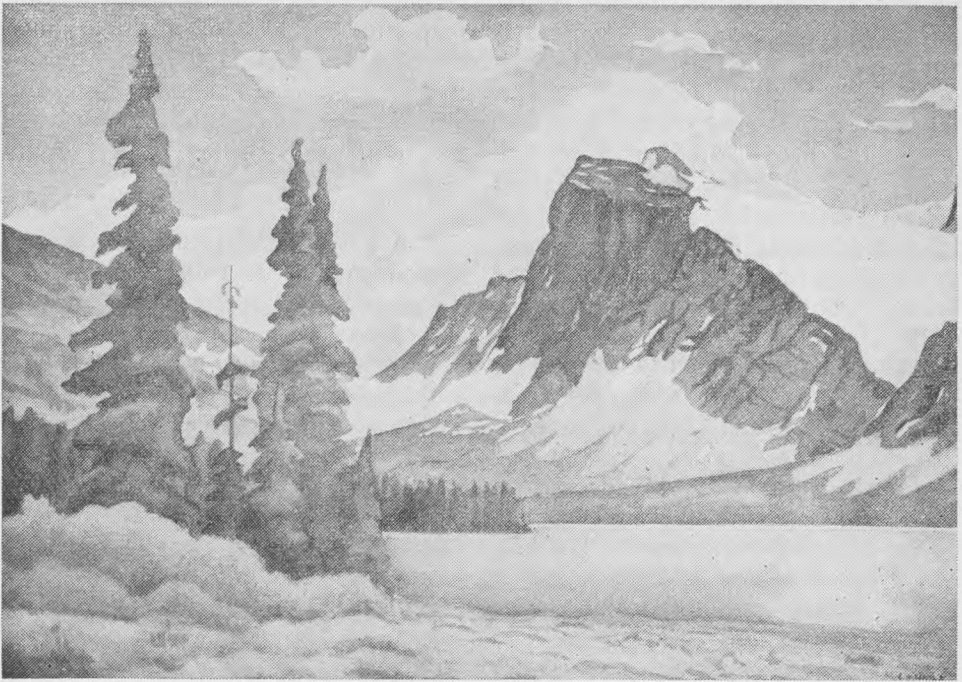
**H. Raymond Beck** was recently appointed Acting Signal Engineer with the Canadian National Railways from Coast to Coast, with headquarters in Montreal,

At the age of thirty-three, he is the youngest engineer ever appointed to this responsible position.

Raymond Beck graduated in electrical engineering with distinction from the University of Manitoba in 1947. Two years later, he was employed by the CNR as assistant Signal Engineer in Toronto, Ontario.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johann T. Beck, 975 Ingersoll St., Winnipeg.

## Ena Skafel's Paintings On Exhibition In Holland



A scene in the Rocky Mountains

Ena W. Skafel, wife of Dr. Einar J. Skafel of Brandon, Man. has won the honor and distinction of having 40 of her paintings placed on exhibit in the Lowj-etsky gallery, one of The Hague's leading art galleries. The showing will be officially opened by the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands.



This is not the first time paintings by Mrs. Skafel have been shown publicly. This crowning display comes after numerous exhibits in Canada, including one at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

Ena Skafel, nee Sparks, is of Irish descent, a third generation descendant of the Sparks family, whose name the leading street in Ottawa bears. She moved with her parents to Western Canada at the age of twelve and it is in the west where her innate ability in the fine arts has found expression in depicting in vivid relief in both oils and water colors, the vastness of the prairies and the majesty of the Rockies. Her parents settled in the Fort Pelly district in Saskatchewan. Ena Sparks taught school for some years and for a while in Wynyard. At some time during those years she met Einar Skafel who hails from Mozart, Sask., and at that time was a university student.

It was not until after Dr. and Mrs. Skafel had settled down, he in his practice of medicine and she in home



building, at first in Minnedosa, and for the last 15 years in Brandon, that the love of the outdoors and the beauty of nature brought out Ena's somewhat dormant but yet persistent qualities of the artist. Four years ago Mrs. Skafel began her formal studies in painting at the Banff School of Fine Arts under W. J. Phillips, R.C.A., the well known water color painter and art teacher. She took four summer courses at Banff, and in 1956 was awarded the Senior Scholarship, received a mark of 95%.

Gissur Eliasson, Head of the School of Fine Arts in the University of Manitoba gives lectures in fine arts at Brandon College once a month and Ena Skafel has received instruction from him. In a preface to the catalogue of the paintings being sent to Holland Mr. Eliasson says of Mrs. Skafel:

"Her effects sing refreshing clarity of tone whether she is depicting vast stretches of the rolling prairie, the gentle slopes and hills that overlook

the approaches to the valley wherein nestles the attractive little city of Brandon, the familiar harvest scene with stubble and stook in the distance, the classic symbol of Western Canada—the grain elevator reaching up in solitary stillness—or in the grandeur of the lofty peaks of the Rocky Mountains . . .

"I am convinced that you will find in the warmth and facility of this collection a great deal of pleasure."

Dr. and Mrs. Skafel have two sons: Jon, age 22, who has just completed third year science at Brandon College, and Michael, age 16, who is attending high school. During the summer months Jon will be assistant chemist at the Anglo Canadian Oils Ltd oil refinery in Brandon. Dr. Skafel is one of the leading medical men in Brandon. He is an Arts graduate as well as a graduate in Medicine from the University of Manitoba. He majored in mathematics and was a medallist in his final year. —W. J. L.

## Icelandic Canadian Club Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club was held in the auditorium of the Unitarian Church, Banning and Sargent, on Monday evening June 2nd, 1958.

The Retiring President, Dr. Gestur Kristjanson, outlined some suggestions for the incoming Executive and the club to work on next year. The Club has been quite active this past year, and the standing of the Club and the Magazine is excellent.

The Officers of the Icelandic Canadian Club are as follows:

Past President— Dr. Gestur Kristjanson  
President: Miss Caroline Gunnarson  
V. President: H. J. Stefanson  
Secretary: Miss S. Eydal,

Corr. Secty.: Miss Helen Josephson.

Treasurer: Helgi Olsen

### Executive

Membership: Mrs. H. F. Danielson

Social: Mrs. W. Johnson

Publicity: J.T. Beck, Mrs. Laura B.

Sigurdson, Miss Mattie Halldorson.

### Magazine Board

Chairman: Judge W. J. Lindal

Secretary: Miss Mattie Halldorson

Dr. Gilbert Arnason, Prof. Haraldur Bessason, Gustave Kristjanson, Arelus Isfeld, Wilhelm Kristjanson, Mrs. Arnheidur Eyjolfson, T. O. S. Thorsteinson, Axel Vopnfjord.

### Business and Circulation Manager:

Hjalmur F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St., Winnipeg 10.



# Graduates, Scholarship and Award Winners

## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA GRADUATES

### Master of Laws

Kristinn Holman Olson, B.A., L.L.B.  
Thesis title: "The Dower Act in Relation to Homesteads in Manitoba".

### Bachelor of Arts

Gudmundur Kristjan Breckman

Beverley May Peterson

### Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy

Jacquelyn Eyrikson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Eyrikson, Winnipeg.

### Bachelor of Commerce

John Garth Arnason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arni Arnason, Winnipeg.

### Bachelor of Science (Honors Course)

Wilbur Jacob Jonsson, Winnipeg.

### Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Civil)

Victor Mundy Austfjord

Siggi Goodbrandson

Eric Osborne Isfeld

Barry Kent Stinson, son of Thorbjorg and Harold Stinson, Winnipeg.

### Electrical Engineering

Brian Jonas Johannesson

### Mechanical Engineering

Sigurdur Baldwin Thorsteinson

John Ivan Johannson

### Bachelor of Architecture

Harry Erickson

Terence Pjetur Julius Tergesen, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Tergesen, Gimli.

### Bachelor of Education

Eric Valgardur Hjartarson, B.Sc.

Jean Thorunn Law, B.A. B.Com.  
(Honors)

Margaret May Page, B.A.

Haraldur Victor Vidal, M.A.

### Bachelor of Pedagogy

Wilfred Leonard Arnason, B.S.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. Gudjon Arnason, Gimli.

Allen Michael Johnson, B.A.

### Law—First Year

Sveinn Albert Thorvaldson, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Thorvaldson, Wpg.

### Diploma in Agriculture

William Eiriksson

Donald Magnus Wilson

### Diploma in Dairying

Theodor Erlendur Erlendson

### Doctor of Medicine

Jon Valdimar Eylands, McGill University, Montreal, son of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. V. J. Eylands, Winnipeg.

★

### Graduates of Northwest Lutheran Seminary, Minneapolis

Donald Olsen, B.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. Oli Olsen, Calgary, formerly of Winnipeg.

Wallace Bergman, B.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bergman, Victoria, B. C., formerly of Winnipeg.

★

### GRADUATES FROM UNIVER- SITY OF MINNESOTA

Two natives of Iceland received B. A. degrees at commencement exercises at the University of Minnesota, March 20, 1958. They were **Kristján Jónsson**, who majored in Sociology and **Haukur Böðvarsson** who majored in American Literature. Mr. Jónsson was formerly in the American armed forces and is now a citizen of the United States. He is married and resides in Minneapolis. Mr. Böðvarsson, who is a native of Brennu í Lundarreykjadal, Borgarfjörður, plans to continue his studies toward an advanced degree.

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS—U. of M.

**Doris Lillian Spring**,—Third Year Home Economics, Isbister Scholarship \$100, the Esther Thompson MacKay Memorial Bursary \$100, and Home Management Prize, presented by the T. Eaton Co., for the highest standing in the course of Household management, (Silver Tea Service), Parents: Mr. and Mrs. John G. Spring, Riverton.

**Kathryn Gail Oleson** (1st year Arts) Ashdown Scholarship \$100, Isbister Scholarship \$100.00.

**Phyllis Thordis Johnson** (2nd year Science) Frances and Hyman Kay Bursary \$105.00, A M. Stewart Memorial Bursary \$100.00. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson, Winnipeg. (see Icel. Can. Winter '56)

**Thorvardur M. Stefansson** (2nd year Engineering). Association of Professional Engineers of Manitoba Scholarship (Honorable Mention). Isbister Ssholarship \$150.

**Frank Sigurdson**, Mayor Findlay Prize (for an Architectural Sketch Design Problem) \$35.00.

**Peter Ronald Erlendson** (2nd year General Option). Dayton Outfitting Co. Scholarship \$100, National Office Management Association Bursary \$100.

★

## SASKATCHEWAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### Bachelor of Arts

**Arthur Rodney Thorfinnson**, Saskatoon.

**John Leifur Bergsteinsson**, Saskatoon

### Bachelor of Science in Engineering

**Donald Gene Olafson**, Windthorst.  
Hospital Laboratory Technician  
Diploma

**Sharon Rose Björnsson**, Smeaton.  
**Ingibjörg Gislason**, Wynyard.  
**Edna Shirley Grimson**, Mozart.

### Associate in Arts

**Lynn Katherine Arnason, B.A.**, Saskatoon. High Honors in Biology and a National Research Council Bursary.

**Lillian Vilborg Bjarnason** Willoughby Scholarship, Regina College. Parents: Lillian and Hafsteinn Bjarnason, Regina.

**Margaret Mary Britnell**, University Scholarship, Luther College.

**Marvin Bildfell**, Foam Lake, Flying Officer, Royal Canadian Air Force.

★

## WINS AWARD



**Lillian Bjarnason**, 18, Regina, Sask., was recently awarded the Willoughby Scholarship at the Regina College, for general proficiency in the Matriculation course.

Lillian is the daughter of Hafsteinn and Lillian Bjarnason formerly of Ingessoll St. Winnipeg.

Prior to moving to Regina with her parents, last summer, Lillian attended the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute and was the winner of the Governor-Generals Medal for 1956-1957. The presentation was made at the

graduation exercises in Young United Church on June 13.

Lillian has maintained an outstanding academic record. In Grade IX at Sargent Park School, she received a scholarship award for obtaining the highest average in her class--95.8%.

Capable and industrious, Lillian took an important part in the various school projects. She was the secretary of Student Council at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate 1956-57, she organized the drama club, was a member of the choir and took part in sports and gymnastics.

Outside of school she participated in church youth activities and sang in the church choir.

Lillian will enroll in 2nd year Arts at the University of Saskatchewan this fall.

★

#### WINS PRIZE FOR ESSAY



**Jo-Anne Stefansson**

Most people are salesmen—even though they may not realize it—for teachers and parents are selling information to youth and in return boys and girls pay them with good work and deeds. These were some of the thoughts of a 15-year-old girl from Daniel McIntyre

Collegiate Institute in her prize winning essay in a competition sponsored by the National Sales Executives of Winnipeg.

Jo-Anne Stefansson, a grade ten student, of 698 Simcoe St., was writing on the topic "Selling as a Professional Career", and her essay won her second prize and \$50.00.

The prize winners, along with their sponsoring teachers and school principals were guests of the sales club at a dinner at the Marlborough hotel.

Jo-Anne read her essay which pointed out that the salesman "after achieving his own confidence should specialize in helping his customers to gain theirs," and even "we help by telling by word of mouth about a product."

The essay will be entered in a national competition for a prize of \$1,000 and an expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C.

Jo-Anne is the granddaughter of Johanna and Gudmundur A. Stefansson (brother of the famous operatic singer, Eggert Stefánsson of Iceland and Italy), 1124 Dominion St. Wpg.

★

#### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Dorothy Backman, of Clarkleigh, Man., won a University of Manitoba Bursary of \$200.00 for high scholastic standing in Grade XII, in June 1957. The previous year, at the age of 16, she was awarded the Dr. Gudmundur Pálson Scholarship of \$100 for the highest average standing in Grade XI. She received her high school education at Lundar and has now completed her second year in Science at the U. of M.

Her brother, Charles, a previous winner of the Dr. G. Pálson Scholarship, is a second year student in Engineering at the University of Manitoba.

Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gudni Backman, live at Clarkleigh, Man.

## AWARDED FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL WORK

Audrey Fridfinnson, Supervisor of the Children's Services for the Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Manitoba, has been awarded a Fellowship, financed by Alpha Gamma Delta, international Women's Organization.

Miss Fridfinnson, the only Canadian receiving this award, will study Counselling and placement of severely handicapped persons, including those with Cerebral palsy, in a four-week course this summer at Bellevue Medical Centre—the Institute for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the New York University.

Audrey graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1943. After two years absence, she returned to the University and obtained a diploma in Social Work in 1946. For the next five years she was employed by the Family Bureau of Winnipeg, first as a case-worker, then as a supervisor.

In 1951 she took a short course at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, before taking a position with the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg. The following three years, she was on the staff of the School of Social Work at the University of Manitoba as a field instructor.

In 1951, she entered the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and was awarded a Master of Arts degree from U. of C., the following year. During her studies in Chicago, she obtained practical experience at a neuro-psychiatric hospital.

Now, despite her heavy schedule, she is a visiting instructor and lecturer at the University of Manitoba School of Social Work.

With her wealth of experience Audrey states "Social work for me has

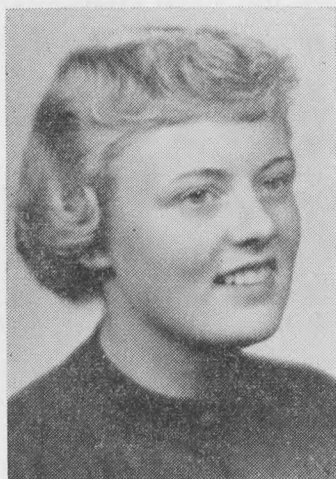
meant many ups and downs but I would not be in any other profession—there is no job, I am sure as stimulating or satisfying."

As she continues her noble profession and makes decisions in the field of health education and welfare her personal insights and convictions will always add warm understanding to her work as it affects the lives of numerous individuals.

Audrey is the daughter of Bertha Fridfinnson and the late Vilhjalmur (Bill) Fridfinnson of Winnipeg —A. E.

★

## NORTH DAKOTA STUDENTS



Joanne Claire Johnson, graduated from High School at Lakota, North Dakota in June 1957 and was chosen Valedictorian of her class.

Diligent in extra-curricular works, Joanne served as President of Future Homemakers of America (Home Economics Department), was an officer of Student Council and Class officer during her Junior year. She was a delegate to Girl's State, sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary and became a Councillor the following year. Besides feature Co-editor of the school paper, she was business-manager of the Annual staff.



She took part in school plays, speech contests and was the Toastmistress at the Junior-Senior banquet.

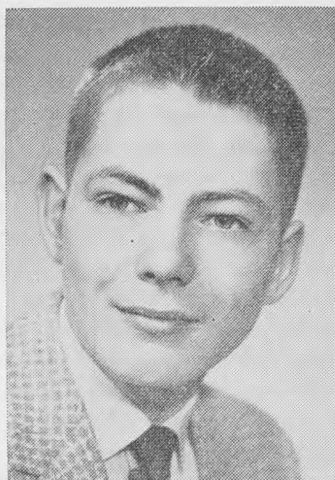
She studies voice and piano and played the drum in the High School band for six years. President of the Luther League, she is also the church choir accompanist.

Joanne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Einar Johnson of Lakota, N. Dak., and is now enrolled at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.



**Judith Louise Johnson**, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Olafur N. Johnson of Rugby, N. Dak., graduated from High School in June 1957. She was chosen Salutatorian. Judith served on the Panther staff for three years, was President of the Student Council and past State treasurer. She was a delegate to Europe with the Student Council—one of eighty students from the United States and territory who visited eight countries in a period of six weeks.

In the fall of 1957, Judith entered the University of North Dakota and is taking Liberal Arts. She is a member of Delta Gamma Sorority.



**Christian Rodney Johnson**, also a student with a brilliant record, graduated from High School at Rugby, N. Dak., in 1957 and was the Valedictorian in a class of eighty students. He is now attending the University of N. Dak.

He has been outstanding, not only in Academic work but also in extra-curricular activities.

Besides taking an active part in school sports, he served on the Panther staff, was Class officer, past president of Luther League and attended Boy's State.

Active in vocal and instrumental music, he is a band soloist.

Christian is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Christian G. Johnson, Rugby, N. Dak.

These three North Dakota students are cousins—and nephew and neices of Mrs. V. J. Eylands of Winnipeg.

★

## WINS MUSIC AWARD

A popular young musician, **Kerrine Wilson**, won the Swedish Musical Club Trophy at the Manitoba Music Festival in March. The adjudicator, Dr. Leon Forrester of London, England said he could describe her piano playing in six words, "clever, exact, humor-

ous, precise, rhythmic, and accurate."

This was her first piece "Merry Thoughts" by Taylor. Of her second piece "To the Moon" by Swinstead, Dr. Forrester said, "This was luminous; we got a charming picture of lovely moonlight and it was melodious."

Kerrine's brother, Carlisle, won the Junior violin contest, gaining 89 marks among eleven contestants.

They are the children of Thelma nee Guttormsson and J. Kerr Wilson of St. Vital, Man., both prominent in Winnipeg music circles.

★



**Helga Baldwinson** was recently awarded a Scholarship certificate and cheque for \$75.00 by the Assiniboine Chapter I.O.D.E. for proficiency in English. Miss Baldwinson is a student at the Manitoba Teacher's College.

Well advanced in piano and vocal studies, she received her A.R.C.F. degree in piano in 1952 and A.R.C.T. degree in voice in 1957. She expects to complete the requirements for A. M.M. from Manitoba for both piano and voice, this year.

Helga attended the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate, studied piano at St. Joseph's Academy, St. Boniface and studied

voice with Mrs. Nina Dempsey, Winnipeg.

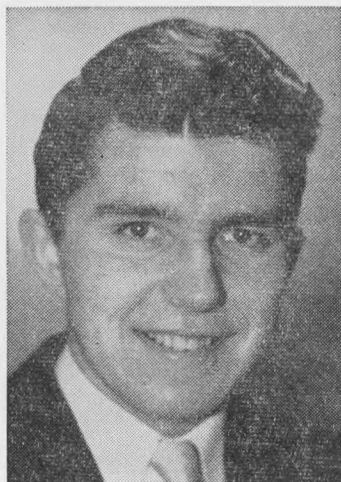
Following her graduation from High School, Helga worked for a few years as Traffic manager at the broadcasting station CKRC.

She was born in Winnipeg, the daughter of Valgerdur Baldwinson and the late Sigvaldi Baldwinson of 334 Semple Ave.

Helga will teach English, French and music in a suburban school next year and hopes to complete her university education gradually.

★

## WINS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**Peter R. Erlendson**

In a recent announcement from the University of Manitoba, Peter Ronald Erlendson, 18, was awarded the Dayton Outfitting Company Scholarship of \$100.00, and the National Office Management Association Bursary for \$100.00, for 1958.

Peter graduated from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute in June 1957 and enrolled in 2nd year Commerce at the U. of M., the same year.

Active in school affairs, he was associate editor of the year-book and

served as Junior Councillor for the T. Eaton Company in 1956-57.

Born in Winnipeg, he is the son of Leifur and Margret (nee Bjarnason) Erlendson of 894 Sherburn Street.

★

## COMPLETES POST-GRADUATE COURSE



**Dr. Arnold Willard Holm**

A boyhood dream and a strong determination to reach a specific goal in life has paid its dividend to Dr. Arnold Willard Holm of Winnipeg. He received his certificate as Specialist in Anaesthesia from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, following completion of a post-graduate course at the Winnipeg General Hospital in November last, and is now Associate Anaesthesiologist at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital.

Born in the Shoal Lake district, Arnold attended elementary school at Rocky Hill and graduated from the Lundar High School in 1927. Two years later, he entered the University of Manitoba, graduated as Doctor of Medicine in 1937, and received his L.M.C.C. the same year. He interned

at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Following graduation, Arnold moved to Victoria, B. C., for the position of House Resident doctor at St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1939-44, he took over a General Practice at Sechelt, B. C., where he also served as Coroner, Health Officer and Medical Inspector of eight schools.

He spent the following years in Vancouver as a General Practitioner and doing part-time anaesthesia at St. Pauls Hospital, later becoming the Chief Anaesthetist at Mount St. Joseph's Hospital, a position he held for nine years. He also served on the Medical Board of the hospital.

With Anaesthesia as his main object, Dr. Holm returned to Winnipeg in 1955, for a post-graduate course.

He is married to Florence Eve Akins, R.N., a graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria, B. C., formerly of Shaunavon, Sask. They have three children.

Prominent in medical circles Dr. Holm is a member of the Canadian the British Columbia, Vancouver, Manitoba and Winnipeg Medical Associations, the Canadian Anaesthetist Society and the American Anaesthetist Association.

He is the son of Sigurdur and Sigridur Holm of Lundar, Manitoba and grandson of the late Daniel and Kristjana Sigurdson, pioneer residents of the Shoal Lake district. —A.E.

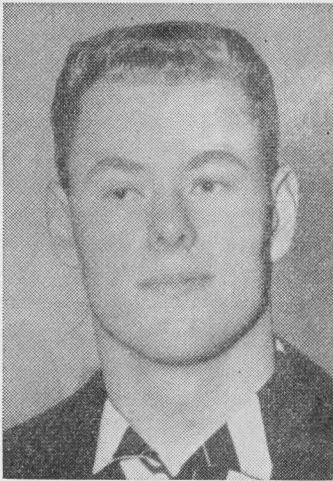
★

## RED CROSS POST FOR THORVALDSON

Senator Gunnar S. Thorvaldson, Q. C. has been elected to the Central Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society. His appointment was announced recently at the annual meeting of the Central Council in Toronto.

## IN THE NEWS . . .

### THE ROOTS LIE DEEP



Jack Wilkie

Jack Wilkie of North Battleford was among Saskatchewan students chosen to attend the United Nations Seminar in Winnipeg this April. Selection was made on the basis of academic achievement.

Jack, 17 years of age and a Grade 12 graduate this spring of the North Battleford Collegiate Institute, received an average of ninety-four per cent in his Grade 12 year. When in Winnipeg he said that he plans to study languages and social sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, beginning this coming fall. He expressed the hope that he may in the future be able to attend a foreign university.

He is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer D. Wilkie. Mr. Wilkie Senior, a pharmacist by profession, is chairman of the North Battleford public school board and president of the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association.

Mrs. Wilkie, the former Thelma Jackson, was the only daughter of the

late Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Jackson, long residents of North Battleford. Mrs. Jackson, born Gudny Vigfusdottir at Akranes, Iceland, was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vigfus Thorsteinson and in 1885, as a young child came with them to Canada. They made their first home in Winnipeg, Man. and subsequently, over the years, lived at Churchbridge in Saskatchewan and Portage la Prairie, Langruth, Gladstone, Beaver and Lundar in Manitoba.

This brilliant young student who is only one-quarter Icelandic, and does not speak a word of Icelandic, is very much interested in his Icelandic ancestry. If it were possible he would take Icelandic at Saskatoon as a language option but his study of Icelandic may have to be postponed.

Not only does Jack want to learn Icelandic as a foreign language but later he would like to visit Iceland and, perhaps, take more advanced courses there. It is to be hoped that his ambition will be fulfilled.

Jack Wilkie is a good example of this interest which some young Canadians of only part Icelandic blood, upon acquiring some knowledge of the cultural wealth to be found in the Icelandic heritage, became determined to learn more. Such young Canadians provide the encouragement needed to keep up our Icelandic Canadian institutions. —T.O.S.T.

★

### FINDS MEMENTO OF STEFANSSON

Forty-one years ago Canadian explorer and anthropologist Vilhjalmur Stefansson discovered Meighen Island on the edge of the Arctic Ocean.



He left a note in a can under a heap of stones.

Last March the can was returned to Dr. Stefansson at Hanover, New Hampshire, U.S.A. by Dr. R. Thorsteinsson, a member of the Geological Survey of Canada who went to the island last summer.

Dr. Thorsteinsson was in Hanover to lecture at Dartmouth where Dr. Stefansson is Arctic consultant and curator of the largest polar-region library in the Western world.

The note left by Dr. Stefansson had been replaced with a note by a German explorer and geologist, Dr. H. K. F. Krueger, whose three-man expedition disappeared in the Arctic in 1930, in it Dr. Krueger said he was taking the Stefansson note with him because it was too fragile to open and make a copy for replacement as was customary.

This was the first word the world has had that Dr. Krueger reached Meighen Island.

★

### **HON. J. T. THORSON, Q.C., RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE**

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Hon. Joseph T. Thorson, president of the Exchequer Court of Canada, at the University of Manitoba Convocation on May 21.

Mr. Thorson was born in Winnipeg in 1889. He obtained B.A. and L.L.B. degrees at the University of Manitoba, was a Rhodes scholar for Manitoba in 1910. He won a degree in lay at Oxford in 1912 and was awarded an Honorary Degree at the University of Iceland in 1930.

He was called to the Bar at Middle Temple London, in 1913, to the Manitoba Bar in the same year and was made a K.C. in 1930. He was Dean of Manitoba Law School from 1921-26

and has been president of the Exchequer Court of Canada since 1942.

Mr. Thorson was elected to the House of Commons for Winnipeg South Centre in 1926 and re-elected in 1935 and 1940. He is a Knight of the Royal Order of the Falcon (Iceland).

He is married to Alleen Scarth of Virden, and has two daughters and one son.

★

### **MRS. J. B. SKAPTASON HONORED**



**Mrs. J. B. Skaptason**

On the occasion of her 80th birthday, Mrs. J. B. Skaptason was honored at a dinner at Moore's restaurant by members of the Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE, in March, last. This event also marked the 42nd anniversary of the chapter, which she founded and served as regent for 17 years. On behalf of the members, Mrs. B. S. Benson presented a handbag to Mrs. Skaptason, who left on a trip to Iceland on Saturday June 14.

The only chapter in the IODE composed of women of Icelandic ties has, in addition to the regular philanthropic and educational work of the order, carried out special projects of particular interest to Icelanders. One such project, and under the leadership of Mrs. Skaptason, the chapter published a Memory Book, picturing 1,300 men and women of Icelandic origin who served Canada in the First World War. A more recent project was the awarding of \$1,000 towards a chair in Icelandic language and literature at the University of Manitoba.

★

Family emphasis on higher education will reap positive results this month at graduation exercises at Gimli High School when the first Hannes Kristjanson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Grade 11 or 12 student.

Established by L. B. Kristjanson, his five brothers and two sisters, the award will be made on the basis of scholarship and need. The winning applicant will be chosen by a committee made up of the school principal, vice-principal and Gimli town clerk.

Mr. Kristjanson, an agricultural economist, extension service, Manitoba department of agriculture, reported that each one of the brothers either has or is working toward doctorates in agricultural economics. One of the sisters is a registered nurse; the other, a businesswoman.

He added that the family concern with education beyond the high school level began with their father, for whom the scholarship is named. "Dad always wished he could do the same for other young people." Mr. Kristjanson said.

Their father's wish has become a reality with the new \$100 annual scholarship. The scholarship is tenable only in Gimli.

In announcing establishment of the

scholarship, education minister Hon. W. C. Miller commented on the "growing interest of individuals in recognition of the value of higher education."

★

## THORVALDSON HONORED BY ICELANDIC GROUPS

A testimonial dinner sponsored jointly by the Icelandic National League and the Icelandic Canadian Club was held at the Royal Alexandra hotel for Senator G. S. Thorvaldson and Mrs. Thorvaldson on April 28.

The Reverend Philip M. Petursson, Vice-president of the Icelandic National League was toastmaster. The invocation was delivered by Pastor Eric H. Sigmar.

Grettir L. Johannson, Consul of Iceland and Denmark, and chairman of Committee arrangements, read greetings from Prime Minister Hermann Jónasson, of Iceland, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, Premier Douglas Campbell, Duff Roblin, leader of the Manitoba Conservative party, Valdimar Bjornson, State Treasurer of Minnesota and Ralph Pybus, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Arni G. Eggertson, Q.C., proposed a toast to Mrs. Thorvaldson and Judge Walter J. Lindal, president of the Canadian Ethnic Press Federation, a toast to Senator Thorvaldson. Judge Lindal's address appears elsewhere in this issue. Other speakers included Dr. Gestur Kristjansson, president of the Icelandic Canadian Club and Frank Olson of Gimli.

Souvenirs of Iceland were presented to the honored couple by Mrs. Anna (Thorvaldson) Arnason and flowers were presented to Mrs. Thorvaldson by Mrs. Gudmann Levy.

Musical entertainment was provided by solos and duets sung by Reverend

and Mrs. Sigmar, accompanist was Mrs. Ken Honey.

A direct link with the earliest Icelandic settlers in Manitoba was established when Mrs. August Pálson, formerly of Gimli, was introduced to the gathering. Mrs. Pálson, 90, is the last of the first group of Icelanders to arrive in Winnipeg in 1875.

★

### WINS PRIZE FOR MUSIC



Mrs. Verna Kristin Solmundson

In a recent song contest, sponsored by officials of the Red River Exhibition Winnipeg, Mrs. Verna Kristin Solmundson of High Bluff, Manitoba, was the winner amongst 78 entries. She was presented with a cheque for \$200 by the president.

With keen interest in music and an exceptionally good sense of harmony, Mrs. Solmundson has written music for her church choir but has never had a song published before. She plays the organ at High Bluff United Church and is a member of the "Sweet and Low Singers" of Portage la Prairie.

"The melody and the words to the

song came almost instantly", said Mrs. Solmundson, "I had them complete in twenty minutes."

The song has been recorded by the Altones, a Winnipeg singing group, with arrangement by Robert McMullin and the orchestra directed by Mitch Parks.

Born and educated in Winnipeg, Mrs. Solmundson attended the Winnipeg School of Art, prior to her marriage to Franz Solmundson, of Gimli, Man. Mr. Solmundson is the Principal of High Bluff Collegiate. They have four children, ranging from eleven to eighteen years of age.

Verna Solmundson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bjorgvin Stefansson, of Winnipeg.

★

### BILLIONS OF FOES HEADED

#### OFF BY RADAR

An article by staff writer Ron Kinney on research into plant rust by Dr. Bjorn Peturson and Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson at the University of Manitoba appeared in the April 19 edition of the Winnipeg Tribune.

Headed "Billions of Foes Are Headed Off By This Radar Network", the article reads as follows:

Right smack down the middle of North America from Texas to Winnipeg and over to the Peace River district lies a "radar" line the army has probably never head of. Yet every year it assumes the responsibility of warning of the advance northward of billions of invaders bent on destruction and waste.

Canadian headquarters for the system is the federal plant pathology lab at the University of Manitoba. Here, one of the chief "intelligence officers" of the operation, Dr. Bjorn Peturson receives data on the enemy's march,

weather reports and casualty reports, and assembles his findings into a prediction as to whether Manitoba need worry about an invasion.

The "radar" network is a series of "spore traps" at strategic locations and plant pathology labs.

The "enemies" are the billions of red rust spores carried on the wind from Texas to infect cereal grains right up to the Peace River country.

Rust is a fungus which lacks the green-coloured chlorophyll which higher plants use to manufacture food by means of the sun. As a result, it must live off a green plant.

### Invades Plant

Rust spores are tiny—one-thousandth of an inch wide. When they land on a plant they like, they grow a long hair-like appendage which goes into the plant through one of its perspiration ducts. It then grows into a vast network of pipe-like creations which suck the nourishment from the plant.

The red-spores linger all winter on the crops of South Texas, then are blown by the wind northward infecting as they go.

It is the progress north of these spores, that is indicated by the "spore traps" that form the "radar" line.

The traps come in two types—a small simple device mounted on a nine-foot pole, and an electrically-operated larger model which must be mounted on a building. Both employ coated slides to catch spores.

The small traps will tell you when the spores arrive and approximately how dense the air is with them. But it cannot measure accurately nor can it tell you what time of day the spores arrived. That is left to its big brother.

### Can't Stop Rust.

Dr. Peturson, head of the epidemiology department at the lab, and Dr. T. Johnson, lab chief, also an epidemiologist and authority on rust, say there isn't much you can do once the rust arrives.

They can predict how bad the invasion will be, taking into account long-range weather forecasts, but they can't stop it.

Fortunately, the lab has been able to develop some varieties of grain, Selkirk Wheat for example, that are comparatively resistant to most types of rust.

Various chemicals are being tested to see if they can exterminate rust. Some have already been found effective, but the cost is prohibitive. Dr. Peturson is certain that they'll have the answer—and soon.

Biggest and most significant use of the radar line has not yet been put into action. If the day ever comes—and it should be here shortly—when chemicals are used for rust-prevention, the warning system will really come into its own as one of the continent's greatest assets in grain production.

Dr. Peturson's pet peeve is the fact that Texans where the rust originates don't want to treat their crops to try and cut down the blight.

This is a major problem. It could well be that if the people of Texas could be persuaded to try and rid their wheat of rust, the epidemic and the yearly infestation of wheat could be cut off at its source.

Until then North America's unique "radar" system will continue to take on a significance that could mean millions of dollars—and millions less headaches to Manitoba farmers and their brothers spread from Mexico to Grande Prairie.



## NEWS SUMMARY

A news letter, published by the Icelandic-American Club of Los Angeles, and edited by Mrs. Gudny M. Thorwaldson, reports that the Icelandic group in Los Angeles has been asked on three occasions, to appear on the Cavalcade of Culture program, promoted by the Adult Evening School at Hollywood High School. The purpose is to give all ethnic groups in L. A. a chance to display their contribution to American culture.

The group appeared in 1952, again last year and this year on April 9.

The program included a vocal solo by Miss Emily Irgudson, formerly of Gardar, N. Dak., and now a teacher in a Lutheran Day School in Hawthorne. An article on the subject "Contribution to American Culture by the Icelandic Ethnic Group" by Skuli Barneson was read by Gudny Thorwaldson, Sumi Swanson spoke about "Iceland Today" and the film "Seeing Iceland, the Jewel of the North" was shown. Larry Thor, Hollywood screen-actor, the son of Mrs. Kristín Thorsteinsson of Winnipeg, was the master of ceremonies. The Consul for Iceland, Stanley T. Olafson gave the official greeting. Three women, visiting from Iceland, wore the Icelandic costumes and Mrs. Rögnvaldur Johnson gave an exhibition of articles from Iceland.

The Icelandic group was lauded highly for their entertainment.

★

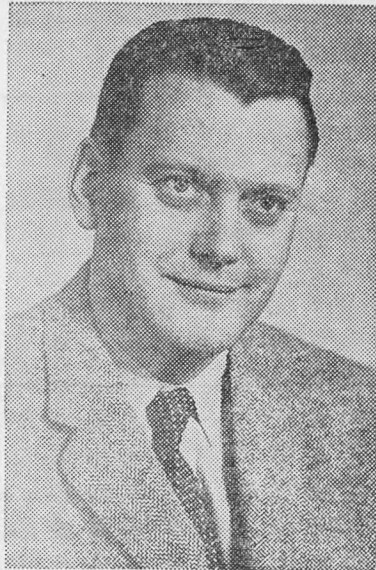
Dr. Gudjon Larusson, wife Auður Gudmundsdottir, two little sons, Larus and Gudmundur, from Iceland, have been in Rochester Minn., since the first of the year. Dr. Larusson is a Fellow at the Mayo Clinic. His father, originally from Seyðisfjörður, is Lárus

Jóhannesson, for many years a member of Iceland's parliament—a Reykjavik lawyer and real estate man.

★

Rev. Sveinbjörn S. Olafsson, Methodist pastor in South St. Paul, who has twice recently been "pressed into service" in manning Icelanders from the old country—in Icelandic—performed the baptismal ceremony in that language Sunday, March 16, when he christened Erik Thor Bjarnar—son of Mr. and Mrs. Vilhjálmur Bjarnar, 3014-44th Avenue South in Minneapolis. Vilhjálmur received his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota last year, and is employed in its library; his wife, the former Dora Erickson, is the daughter of Mrs. Regina Erickson, native of Arborg, Man.

★



**Dr. George Johnson**

In the recent provincial elections Dr. George Johnson, Progressive Conservative was elected for the electoral con-



Elman Guttormson

stituency of Gimli, and Elman Guttormson, Liberal Progressive was elected for St. George. This magazine extends congratulations.

*Say it  
with* **Flowers**  
from  
**The Orchid**



Flowers Telegraphed Everywhere,  
VICTOR SCOTT

310 Donald St. Ph. WH 2-3404-5-6

It is not known as yet who will head the next government, which is bound to be a minority government and hence somewhat shaky, but these two M.L.A.'s can find comfort in these facts. The Conservatives have won 26 seats out of 57, and their leader will probably before very long become the premier of Manitoba. Elman Guttormson received a majority of 1075 over his nearest opponent, the official Progressive Conservative candidate, and no doubt has a safe seat for many years.

**Perth's**  
**CLEANERS**  
**LAUNDERERS**  
**FURRIERS**

Western Canada's  
Largest  
Cleansing  
Institute

**SUNset**  
**3-7261**

Mrs. Albert Johnson

S. L. Stefansson

## *Nell's Flower Shop*

WEDDING BOUQUETS :: CUT FLOWERS :: FUNERAL DESIGNS  
CORSAGES

Ph. SPruce 4-5257 700 NOTRE DAME AVE. Res. Ph. SPruce 4-6753

◆ Opposite Hospital Stop ◆









FC 106 I3 I15 V-15-16 1956-1958  
THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

PERIODICAL 39702709 PMC



\* 000027250091 \*

Date Due

~~MAX~~ MAY 28 '74

MAY 28 RETURN



**B14319**